

Serial No. 09/582,253
Art Unit 3632
AMENDMENT
Page 2

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface comprising:

a first part fixable to the surface;

a second part slidably attachable to the first part along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, said second part adapted to capture the pipe so as to be slidably along the pipe; and

co-operating formations on said first and second parts, said co-operating formations both enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, and limiting slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe.

The connecting device of claim 21, wherein said second part comprises a base connecting two spaced sides, and inwardly turned ends on said sides spaced from said base, wherein said base, sides, and inwardly turned ends capture the pipe when disposed therein.

Serial No. 09/582,253

Art Unit 3632

AMENDMENT

Page 3

Claim 23 (currently amended): The connecting device of claim 22, wherein said inwardly turned ends are spaced from one another distance less than the dimension said second part spaced sides of the captured pipe.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The connecting device of claim 23, wherein said co-operating formations further permit slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in the direction opposite said given direction once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The connecting device of claim 22, wherein said first part is U-shaped with a base supporting two spaced sides, said first part base being fixable to the surface and said co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the first part sides to said second part sides with said second part inwardly turned ends extending toward one another between said first part sides and said second part sides.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The connecting device of claim 25, wherein said co-operating formations comprise spaced teeth in said first part sides and said second part sides.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The connecting device of claim 22, further comprising ribs on said second part base, spaced sides and inwardly turned ends, said ribs engaging the pipe when disposed therein.

Serial No. 09/582,253

Art Unit 3632

AMENDMENT

Page 4

Claim 28 (currently amended): The connecting device of claim 22 ~~21~~, wherein said co-operating formations further permit slidable movement of the second part relative to the first part in the direction opposite said given direction once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

Claim 29 (cancelled).

[to next page]